

My Project GO Story

Year 2 Russian has definitely been an eye opener with regards to the complexity of the Russian language. One of my favorite parts of the course was when we spent a full week learning how to use verbs of motion and the grammar associated with them. Unlike English, Russian grammar for motion revolves heavily around prefixes and stem changes to the original verb to indicate direction and location. It was a fun challenge to try and adjust my mind to understand motion in the world through two different senses for the first time ever.



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Memorable Moments

Funniest: We watched a Simpsons clip where Lisa travels to the Russian district in Springfield. It showcased common Russian stereotypes, like yelling instructions and forceful marketing. It was funny to watch the inaccurate stereotypes of Russians in American pop culture media!

Most challenging: Russian handwriting is done exclusively in cursive, which is fairly different from their print script. My cursive was not as good as it needed to be at the start of the course.

Favorite: My favorite experience was a trip I took to Devil's Lake State Park. It has great hiking trails with amazing views, and a really nice lake to swim in.

Cultural Differences

Something I found interesting was... Russian culture has a crazy amount of superstitions and cultural beliefs, such as not whistling inside another person's house, sitting down before leaving on a trip, giving an odd number of flowers for happy events and even number for sad events (funerals, etc.). Even though most Russians do not necessarily believe in the superstitions, most people in Russia still observe them.

New Perspective

I was surprised to learn... just how much time this course demands. Be prepared to endure four hours of class everyday, with at least as much homework every night, for five days a week.

Advice to students considering this program: Get ready to work - hard. You will be attempting to study a year of college level language in eight weeks. You will need to study a lot and effectively as well.

How this program will help me in my future career: My dream job in the Army is a FAO, or Foreign Area Officer, in a Russian speaking country. I am interested in Russian and Eastern European countries, and the opportunity to work in one while serving my country appeals to me greatly.